



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 27, 1844.

The absence of the Editor, will account for the deficiency of our usual quota of editorial matter to-day. But these Christmas times our readers, we presume, will not expect much from Editors, at least such is generally the case.

The Senator from Onslow.

It will be seen from an extract of a letter below, that the Senator from Onslow—Mr. Ennet, has been expelled from the Senate:

"Raleigh, Dec. 22d, 1844.

"Our old friend Ennet, was on yesterday unceremoniously expelled from his seat in the Senate, and the Federal party, to gain a majority in the Senate, and thereby get the power of doing as they please, have wronged a man, disgraced themselves, and cast a stain upon their party, that no human hand can ever wipe away. Yes, Sir, such injustice was, I assure you, never practiced upon an American citizen before. His Counsel were not permitted to defend him. They were ruled down, and Mr. Henry was ruled out. The Federal party no doubt have caused, and had made up their minds and resolved to pursue just the course they have done. All the proof under Heaven could not have saved him; and, sir, he has not been expelled because his enemies think him guilty. No, no. It is, I assure you, not so. But the main reason is this: Mr. Ennet is a Democrat—the Feds want power; and to get it, they will do almost anything. I assure you there is a most tremendous excitement here. They (the Feds) are now in power, and will no doubt make every effort to get through their favorite measures, before Onslow can send Mr. Ennet back."

We had hoped better things of the Federalists, but we are now of opinion, if never before, that they are capable of doing anything for the sake of carrying their point. Here is a man that has evidently been imposed upon—had a deliberate fraud practised upon him; as soon as he finds it out—as an honest man should have done—he immediately brings the subject before the Senate, and invites an investigation of the matter; a committee is appointed, unfriendly to Mr. Ennet politically, they can't find out who committed the forgery; and the result is—a resolution is offered by the Chairman of the committee, that he, Mr. Ennet, is the guilty person or accessory to the forgery, and is then expelled by a strict party vote.

The first resolution which declares that a forgery had been committed, we learn from the Fayetteville Observer, was passed unanimously, but the question having been divided, when it was taken on the 2d and 3d together, they were carried by the casting vote of the Speaker. Here then, we have federal authority to warrant us in our opinion and belief, that party malignity has been the cause of the expulsion of Mr. Ennet. We believe—with our correspondent, who ought to know something about affairs in Raleigh, that he has been expelled "not because his enemies thought him guilty," but so as to enable them to carry their measures through, which they knew was impossible for him to do, unless they could get rid of a Democratic member.

A writ has, we learn, been issued for an election to take place in the county of Onslow, on the 30th inst. We have every assurance that Mr. Ennet, the injured man, will be returned. If so, it will only go to show that the people of Onslow know how to meet a gross insult aimed at their whole county.

The Post-master General, Wickliffe, passed by here on Monday last, en route South—it is supposed his visit is in connection with the continuation of the great Southern Mail, via this place, South. We hope yet that the transportation of the mail will be continued, as heretofore. We wait patiently to hear the result of this all-important matter—important to this town, at least.

The Texas Question.

This question has been looked to at the South, as one of the most important which would come before the present session of Congress. We had hoped from the late verdict of the people, that this all-important subject might be settled without further delay, but we begin to think with the Richmond Enquirer, that "there is danger yet." From the present aspect of things, we see no probability of the passage of the joint resolutions for annexation offered a few days ago, we believe, by Mr. McDuffie, of South Carolina.

Mr. Joyner, (fed.) has been elected from the county of Pitt, to fill the vacancy in the Senate, occasioned by the death of J. L. Foreman, Esq. He beat his opponent 36 votes, only.

MORSE'S MAGNETIC TELEGRAPH.—It will be seen by reference to our Congressional synopsis, that a resolution was adopted in the House of Representatives, on the 19th inst., directing the committee on Commerce to inquire into the expediency of continuing the Electro Magnetic Telegraph of Professor Morse, from Baltimore to New York, through Philadelphia.

CONGRESS.

We give below the most important items of the proceedings of Congress. We select from the correspondence of the Baltimore Sun.

In the House of Representatives, Dec. 13th, a communication was received from the Executive Department, giving information that the Republic of Venezuela would pay the indemnity in the case of the brig Morris.

The bill of Mr. Duncan, providing for the casting of votes for President on one day, was considered, the question being on agreeing to the bill as reported from the committee of the whole.

After some discussion, in which Messrs. Dromgool, Duncan, Campbell, Rhett and Black participated, the bill as reported from the committee of the whole was read a third time, when, it being late, without taking the question on the passage of the bill, the House adjourned to Monday next.

In the Senate, Dec. 16th, Messrs. Choate, of Massachusetts, Huger, of South Carolina, and Haywood, of North Carolina, appeared in their seats.

Mr. Johnson's resolution on the subject of the Naturalization Laws, came up in due course. The resolution instructs the committee on the Judiciary to enquire into the expediency of some amendment to these laws, relative to extending the time of residence in order to give citizenship to foreigners.

Mr. Allen opposed any alteration, except additional guards at the time of elections. Messrs. Archer and Rives supported the views of Mr. Johnson with reference to frauds at the recent elections. An extension of the time of probation was opposed by Messrs. Merrick and Rives.

Messrs. Foster and Dickinson, of New York, denied that there had been any material frauds at the New York elections. The resolution was then adopted.

In the House of Representatives, Mr. Duncan called for the consideration of his election bill. The bill was ordered to be engrossed, yeas 177, nays 1. It was then read a third time and passed by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Duncan asked leave to introduce his bill to organize a territory to be called the Oregon Territory. Read twice and referred to the committee on Territories.

In Senate, Dec. 17th, two memorials were presented by Mr. Buchanan, from Philadelphia, asking an alteration of the naturalization laws. Mr. B. took occasion to say that he is against any extension of the time now specified by law. He was willing, however, to correct any abuses which may exist under the present law. Referred to the Judiciary committee.

Mr. Benton offered a resolution directing the committee on Foreign Relations to ascertain the number of private speculators in Texas lands, &c.; also the author of the private letter to Secretary Upshur, relative to the design of Great Britain on Texas, together with all other information on several other matters.

In the House of Representatives no business of importance was transacted to-day.

In Senate, Dec. 18th, resolutions of the Legislature of New Hampshire, in favor of a reduction of postage, &c., were presented by Mr. Woodbury.

After the transaction of some unimportant business, the Senate went into Executive session, and confirmed the nomination of Mr. Van Ness, as Collector of New York.

In the House of Representatives, several notices of bills were given to amend the Constitution so as to limit the services of President to one term.

Mr. Weller gave notice of a joint resolution for the annexation of Texas.

In Senate Dec. 19th, a message was received from the President, relative to Texas. Referred to the committee on Foreign Relations.

In the House of Representatives, Mr. Morris of Pennsylvania, offered a resolution directing the committee on commerce to enquire into the expediency of making an appropriation for the continuation of Morse's Telegraph from Baltimore to N. York. The resolution was agreed to.

Mr. Weller submitted a joint resolution for the annexation of Texas. Referred.

Mr. Hardin, from the committee on post-office, reported a bill to reduce the rate of postage.

WASHINGTON Dec. 23.

Congress.—In the House, Mr. Douglass of Illinois, on leave, introduced a joint resolution for the annexation of Texas to the United States, in conformity with the treaty of 1803, for the purchase of Louisiana, which was read the first and second time, and referred to the Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union. On motion by Mr. Cave Johnson, the rules were suspended to allow of reports from committees, notices and the introduction of bills and resolutions; and in consequence, the greater part of the day was taken up with business of that nature. A number of petitions and memorials were, as usual, presented, and referred under the rules.—Globe.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.—In another column will be found the Message of President Tyler, communicating to Congress the correspondence between Senator Rejon and Mr. Shannon, and comments with some severity on the charges of "duplicité and fraud" made against the U. S., by the former. The President reviews the whole correspondence, and believes his conduct will meet the approval of the world. He does not recommend to Congress retaliatory measures, but contents himself with a renewal of his recommendation of the adoption of measures for the speedy annexation of Texas; then if Mexico should on that account declare war against us, the responsibility for the consequences will rest with herself, and the evil be on her own head.

The Fair.

Agreeably to notice given in our paper last Friday, the Ladies of Wilmington exhibited at the Masonic Hall on the 24th and 25th inst., a splendid collection of articles and refreshments. We believe the Fair was well attended. The proceeds are to be appropriated to the repairs of the Presbyterian Church. By the way, we must return our most heartfelt thanks and best wishes to the fair for their kind attention towards us. Yesterday morning we received from them a large slice of cake and other good things, which our devil agreed with us in pronouncing most delicious.

We wish the fair damsels of Wilmington prosperity in their laudable object, and for having, at the same time, an eye single to—God—bless them.

Correspondence of the N. Y. Ev. Post. WASHINGTON, Dec. 14, 1844.

Mr. Green, the bearer of despatches from our Minister in Mexico, arrived here by yesterday's cars, and immediately repaired to the State Department. A cabinet council was instantly called, and their deliberations lasted far into the night. The most that is known of the contents of the despatches is, that Mr. Shannon has suspended his diplomatic relations with the Government of Mexico, and that he awaits instructions from the United States. For this the public were, no doubt, prepared, from the situation in which our Minister was left, at the date of his last published letter to the Mexican Secretary, and from the peculiar tone of the Secretary's reply. To this is now to be added the legislative sanction of this reply, by a formal act of the Mexican Congress.

Various rumors are abroad in the city, concerning some overt hostile acts, said to have been committed by order of the Mexican Government, towards our shipping in some of the Mexican seaports; but the rumors are undoubtedly incorrect, as the latest advices from that country by way of New Orleans, bring no such intelligence; indeed, those accounts would seem rather to imply that there was scarcely a responsible government in Mexico, from which an order of the kind indicated, could emanate.

Day before yesterday, and a part of the night, Mr. Calhoun spent in an earnest conference with Mr. Packingham, the British Minister, and immediately afterwards, four or five different messengers were sent off from the State Department, to several of our ministers at the different courts in Europe, to Mexico, and to some of the South American Republics. The English minister, also I understand, sent off a messenger with despatches to Great Britain.

The critical condition of our relations with Mexico, and through her, possibly with some of the leading powers of Europe, renders this unusual diplomatic activity, a matter of deep interest and anxious speculation; and among other *on dits* is one, that if Texas will in any sufficiently authoritative manner, declare her wishes to become annexed to the United States, then Great Britain is to throw no obstacles in the way, and will intimate to Mexico, that it will be necessary for her to acquiesce as gracefully as she may, that no opposition is to be expected from any other European quarter; that a very liberal treaty of boundary will be negotiated with Mexico, in which the large claims for indemnity due by her to our citizens, will in some satisfactory manner be arranged; and finally, that in the general balance sheet, which is now in the progress of being made up, the Oregon boundary will also be satisfactorily adjusted.

I give you the above, as merely one of the rumors of the hour, which may be succeeded by another equally as plausible, even before this is entrusted to the mail.

All seem to concur in the opinion, that if hostilities do take place, that they must be commenced by Mexico. The latest accounts from that country, also, agree in representing her, unsustained by England, as being in no condition to commence a belligerent controversy with us. It is therefore barely possible, that our Secretary may have caught at the policy of simply knocking what he conceives to be her prop from under her by reconciling Great Britain to the measure of annexation; and that the knotty subjects for adjustment, pending between us and England, have afforded him an opportunity of so doing; such at least is the report.

Whatever else may be said of Mr. Calhoun's qualities as a discreet and sagacious statesman, all must admire the prompt and energetic manner in which he meets the great emergencies of the department over which he presides. Decisive and firm in his movements, and arriving at his conclusions almost by intuition, he marks out a course for himself, and is well advanced in pursuing it, before one of your ordinary sluggish diplomats would comprehend the question.

IMPORTANT DECISIONS.

It will not be forgotten that the legality of the rules under which duties were collected under the Compromise Act during the summer of 1842, was lately disputed, and that the duties were paid under protest. The question has at length been settled. The *Globe* of Saturday says:—"The Supreme Court has now decided the matter in controversy, having yesterday given a unanimous opinion—in a case brought by an importer against the Collector of Baltimore, to recover back the duties paid between 30th June and 30th August, as having been exacted without law; that such duties were lawfully collected; and that the regulations of the Treasury for their collection were authorized and proper."

The democrats of Boston have nominated CHARLES G. GREENE, the "Editor" of the Boston Post, as their candidate for Mayor.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

From The Associated Press.

The published Message of the President, to both Houses of Congress, gives a faithful abstract of the relations at present existing between our Government and that of Mexico.

To the Senate, and House of Representatives:

I transmit herewith copies of despatches received from our Minister at Mexico, since the commencement of your present session, which claim, from your importance, and I doubt not will receive, your calm and deliberate consideration. The extraordinary and highly offensive language which the Mexican Government has thought proper to employ in reply to the remonstrance of the Executive, through Mr. Shannon, against the renewal of the war with Texas while the question of annexation was pending before Congress and the People, and also, the proposed manner of conducting that war, will not fail to arrest your attention.

Such remonstrance, urged in no unfriendly spirit to Mexico, was called for by consideration of an imperative character, having relation as well to the peace of this country and honor of this Government, as to the cause of humanity and civilization. Texas had entered into the Treaty of Annexation upon the invitations of the Executive; and when, for that act, she was threatened with a renewal of the war on the part of Mexico, she naturally looked to this Government to interpose its efforts to ward off the threatened blow. But one course was left the Executive, acting within the limits of its constitutional competency, and that was to protest in respectful, but at the same time strong and decided terms against it.

The war thus threatened to be renewed, was promulgated by edicts and decrees, which, on the part of the Mexican military, the desolation of whole tracts of country, and the destruction, without discrimination, of all ages, sexes, and conditions of existence. Over the manner of conducting war, Mexico possesses no exclusive control. She has no right to violate at pleasure the principles which an enlightened civilization has laid down for the conduct of nations at war; and thereby retrograde to a period of barbarism which, happily for the world, has long since passed away. All nations are interested in enforcing an observance of those principles, and the United States, the oldest of the American Republics, and the nearest of the civilized powers to the theatre on which these enormities were proposed to be enacted, could not quietly content themselves to witness such a state of things.—They had, through the Executive, on another occasion, and as was believed, with the approbation of the whole country, remonstrated against outrages similar, but even less inhuman, than those which by her edicts and decrees she has threatened to perpetrate, and of which the late inhuman massacre at Toluca was but the precursor.

The bloody and inhuman murder of Fania and his companions, equalled only in savage barbarity by the usages of the untutored Indian tribes, proved how little confidence could be placed on the most solemn stipulations of her Generals, while the fate of others who became her captives in war, many of whom, no longer able to sustain the fatigue and privations of long journeys, were shot down by the way-side, while their companions who survived were subjected to sufferings even more painful than death—had left an indelible stain on the page of civilization.—The Executive, with the evidence of an intention on the part of Mexico to renew scenes so revolting to humanity, could do no less than renew remonstrances formerly urged.

For fulfilling duties so imperative, Mexico has thought proper, through her accredited organs, because she has had represented to her the inhumanity of such proceedings, to indulge in language unknown to the courtesy of diplomatic intercourse, and offensive in the highest degree to this Government and people. Nor has she offended in this only. She has not only violated existing conventions between the two countries, by arbitrary and unjust decrees against our trade and intercourse, but withholds instalments of debt, due to our citizens, which she solemnly pledged herself to pay, under circumstances which are fully explained by the accompanying letter from Mr. Green, our Secretary of Legation. And when our Minister has invited the attention of her Government to wrongs committed by her local authorities not only on the property but on the persons of our fellow citizens, engaged in prosecuting fair and honest pursuits, she has added insult to injury, by not even deigning, for months together, to return an answer to his representations.

Still further to manifest her unfriendly feelings towards the United States, she has issued decrees expelling from some of her provinces American citizens engaged in the peaceful pursuits of life, and now denies to those of our citizens prosecuting the whale fishery on the north-west coast of the Pacific, the privilege which has through all time, heretofore been accorded to them, of exchanging goods of a small amount in value at her ports in California for supplies indispensable to their health and comfort.

Nor will it escape the observation of Congress, that in conducting a correspondence with the Minister of the United States, who cannot, and does not, know any distinction between the geographical section of the Union, charges wholly unfounded are made against particular States, and an appeal to others for aid and protection against supposed wrongs. In this same connection, sectional prejudices are attempted to be excited, and the hazardous and unpardonable effort is made to foment divisions among the States of the Union, thereby to embitter their peace. Mexico has still to learn, that however freely we may indulge in discussion among ourselves, the American people will tolerate no interference in their domestic affairs by any foreign government; and in all that concerns the constitutional guarantees and the national honor, the people of the United States have but one mind and one heart.

The subject of Annexation addresses itself most fortunately to every portion of the Union. The Executive would have been unmindful of its highest obligations, if it could have adopted a course of policy dictated by sectional interests and local feelings. On the contrary, it was because the question was neither local nor sectional, but made its appeal to the interests of the whole Union, and of every State in the Union, that the negotiation, and finally the Treaty of Annexation was entered into; and it has afforded me no ordinary pleasure to perceive that, so far as demonstrations have been made upon it by the People, they have proceeded from all portions of the Union.

Mexico may seek to excite divisions among us, by uttering unjust denunciations against particular States, but when she comes to know that the invitations addressed to our fellow-citizens by Spain, and afterwards by herself to settle Texas, were accepted by emigrants from all the States; and when, in addition to this, she refreshes her recollection with the fact, that the first effort which was made to acquire Texas was during the ad-

ministration of a distinguished citizen from an Eastern State, which was afterwards renewed under the auspices of a President from the Southwest, she will awake to a knowledge of the fullness of her present purpose of sowing dissensions among us, or producing distraction in our Councils by attacks either on particular States, or on persons who are now in the retirement of private life. Considering the appeal which she now makes to eminent citizens by name, can she hope to escape censure for having ascribed to them as well as to others, a design, as she pretends now, for the first time revealed, of having originated negotiations to despoil her, by duplicity and falsehood, of a portion of her territory? The opinion then, as now, prevailed by the Executive, that the Annexation of Texas to the Union was a matter of vast importance.

In order to acquire that territory before it had assumed a position among the independent powers of the earth, propositions were made to Mexico, for a cession of it to the United States. Mexico saw in these proceedings, at the time, no cause of complaint. She is now, when simply reminded of them, awakened to the knowledge of the fact, which she, through her Secretary of State, promulgates to the whole world as true, that those negotiations were founded in deception and falsehood, and superinduced by unjust and iniquitous motives.

While Texas was a dependency of Mexico, the United States opened negotiations with the latter power for the cession of her then acknowledged territory; and now that Texas is independent of Mexico, and has maintained a separate existence for nine years,—during which time she has been received into the family of nations, and is represented by accredited ambassadors at many of the principal Courts of Europe—and when it has become obvious to the whole world that she is forever lost to Mexico, the United States is charged with deception and falsehood in all relating to the past, and condemnatory accusations are made against States which have had no special agency in the matter, because the Executive of the whole Union has negotiated with free and independent Texas upon a matter vitally important to the interests of both countries.

And after nine years of unavailing war, Mexico now announces her intention, through her Secretary of Foreign Affairs, never to consent to the independence of Texas, or to abandon the effort to reconquer that republic. She thus announces a perpetual claim, which at the end of a century will furnish her as plausible a ground for discontent against any nation, which at the end of that time may enter into a Treaty with Texas, as she possesses at this moment against the United States. The lapse of time can add nothing to her title to independence.

A course of conduct such as has been described, on the part of Mexico, in violation of all friendly feeling, and of the courtesy, which should characterize the intercourse between the Nations of the Earth, might well justify the U. States in a resort to any measure to vindicate their national honor; but actuated by a sincere desire to preserve the general peace, and in view of the present condition of Mexico, the Executive resting upon its integrity, and not fearing that that judgment of the world will duly appreciate its motives, abstains from recommending to Congress a resort to measures of redress, and contents itself with re-urging upon that body prompt and immediate action on the subject of Annexation. By adopting that measure, the United States will be in the exercise of an undoubted right; and if Mexico, not regarding that forbearance, shall aggravate the injustice of her conduct by a declaration of war against them, upon her head will rest all the responsibility.

JOHN TYLER.

WASHINGTON City, Dec. 19, 1844.

South Carolina Legislature.

We learn from our Charleston exchanges, that this body adjourned on the 18th inst., after a session of three weeks and three days, and have passed twenty-six Acts, and a variety of Resolutions.

The Patriot says: We are informed that on the day of adjournment, the Committee of the Whole, reported the series of Resolutions submitted by Mr. Pickens as regards the Tariff and Texas, and in relation to the 25th rule, admitting Abolition Petitions in the House of Representatives. A motion being made and carried to divide the Resolutions, the first series, in relation to Texas and the Tariff, were adopted, and the last series, regarding the 25th rule, laid on the table.

"Our informant states that appropriations have been made for a Greek Professorship in the South Carolina College, and to Henry Bailey, Esq., for professional services for his able exertions in the case relative to the forfeiture of the Bank Charters."

Mexico.—We have information from Mexico, through the New Orleans Picayune, to the 2d inst. The news is very contradictory, but represents that country as being in a very unsettled state. The Picayune says that "a letter from Vera Cruz, dated on the 30th November, states that the revolution in Jalisco presents each day an aspect more formidable. Gen. Paredes is said to be at the head of 8 or 10,000 men, and the South is uniting with the disaffected. Zacatecas, Aguas Calientes, and a part of San Luis Potosi have seconded or approved of the pronouncement of Paredes, while it is asserted that Oajaca has also declared against Santa Anna. The latter has positively declared against the Congress, while that body is daily publishing every document received both for and against the revolution—a circumstance which would indicate that the members are determined to act independently, and have little fear of the Dictator. That a majority of them are in favor of a change of government, and heartily sick of the tyrannical and oppressive measures of Santa Anna, we see no reason to doubt, and they are also in favor of his being called to a strict account for his actions previous to the convening of the Congress."

DISGRACEFUL ASSAULT.—We learn from the correspondent of the Baltimore Sun, that on the morning of the 18th inst., a man named Captain Sangster, whilst under the influence of liquor, made a violent assault upon the person of John Quincy Adams, in the lobby of the House of Representatives. The reason for the assault is not given.

From the N. Y. Evening Post. Cheap Postage.

We are glad to see, amid the many distractions caused by wars and rumor of wars that the public and the press are not altogether disposed to give the subject of cheap postage the go-by. In Cincinnati, as we learn by late papers, public meetings have been held, to consider the question, in which many of the most respectable citizens of all parties, including even the clergy, have taken a most active and decided part. At one of these, the Mayor of the city presided, and addresses were made by W. M. Corry, Timothy Walker, S. P. Chase, the Rev. Dr. Beecher, and other distinguished gentlemen.

The resolutions reported were definite and explicit, recommending the total abolition of the franking privilege, and the adoption of the two cent rate, and expressing the conviction of the meeting, that with an economical administration of the department under the reformed system, its revenues would be adequate to its expenditures; and that in the mean time, any deficit ought, in justice, to be charged upon the general revenue.

In the city of Boston, also, the journals are taking ground in favor of the two cent rate, as abundantly sufficient to meet all the conditions of the case. One of these, in a humorous article, thus amusingly illustrates the argument in favor of a cheap system:

"We say there is no reason in any postage higher than two cents for a letter not exceeding half an ounce, for any distance in the United States.

Cannot a man afford to carry 100 lbs., from Passamaquoddy to New Orleans, or even to Texas, for \$64. Why, he can get himself, fat or lean—carried for that, and fed in the bargain. Now, 3200 letters, at half an ounce each, would make just 100 lbs. net, and a two cents each, the postage is \$64. Hence there is no objection to two cents postage, account of the weight of the mails. The only question is, would the mails be full enough? It stands to our reason that they would.—Uncle Sam would very soon make a better business of it than he now does. Take ourself for instance. We have three brothers and four sisters in Ohio, and one sister in Wisconsin, or somewhere, beyond, and how many nephews and nieces we don't know, because the postage is so high we get no letters at all by mail, and next to none any way.—Well, as we have said, although they have had schooling enough, they don't write at all, on account of the high postage. For our part, we bear the twinges of conscience a great while before we fork over the quarter to let them know ourself alive—once in six months or a year or two—not often, on an average, than a child is born.

"Now, at two cents, we should write to every one of these dear, half-forgotten brothers and sisters, once every month or two—twenty—forty times what we do now—and, what would be clear gain to Uncle Sam, they would write to us—their children to our children—just as the not half so well schooled children in England are now doing.

"O ye powers of brotherly and sisterly love, when we think how Uncle Sam's pound-fish policy has severed the ligaments between us and our own father's children, we are ready to thresh him with a bootjack, as a dogged, stupid old curmudgeon. But when we reflect that we ourselves are a fractional part of this unwieldy old gentleman, then we are ready to pull some of our hair out, because we did not agitate this subject when we were a gosling of a boy at college—seven hundred miles from home, spending four or five dollars a year for a starvation correspondence! We shall try to make up for lost time."

It will be remembered that Mr. Wickliffe in his annual report, after expressing a doubt whether if the rates of postage were reduced, the expenses of the department could be met, concedes that with certain retrenchments of useless appropriations the post office might be made to support itself upon its own revenues. But supposing that the department should become a charge upon the treasury, it could only be so at the outset of the experiment, so that the inconvenience would be merely for the time.

In a communication which we published yesterday, an opinion was expressed, founded upon a letter from Washington, that no action in relation to the post office laws would take place during the present session of Congress. We are not certain of this, if the people would exert themselves in getting up the right kind of petitions. At any rate, let them be moved in regard to so desirable a reform, if not to start the present Congress, to let the President and Congress elect, know what demands will be made upon them as soon as they have warmed their chairs.

Most melancholy occurrence.—On Thursday last, Mr. Wm. Calder, a citizen of Wilmington, left here on the Steamer Gov. Dudley, for Charleston, to transact some business there requiring his personal presence, and having attended to his business, he took passage on the same boat on Friday to return. About midnight, Mr. Calder went from the cabin on to the upper deck for the purpose of seeing the Steamer of the line bound South, which is usually met near that hour. Whilst standing near the wheelhouse, conversing with Captain Wade, Mr. Calder's hat blew off, and in the effort to recover it, he was precipitated overboard, directly under one of the paddle-wheels, and lost. The steamer was immediately brought to, the yawl sent out, and nearly an hour's search made for his body, but no trace of it was discovered.—It was blowing quite freshly at the time, and a considerable sea was running.

Mr. Calder was a native of Charlestown, Mass., where his parents and other relatives still live. He had resided in Wilmington for the last 15 or 16 years, engaged for most of the time in an active mercantile business. He has left a wife, several children, and other connexions and friends here, to deplore his sad fate.

Chronicle.